

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-40 were pending in the application. Claims 28-31 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 32-40 are allowed while claims 1-27 stand rejected. By the above amendments, the Applicant has amended claims 1-2 and added new claim 41. Therefore, claims 1-41 are currently pending. The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments above and remarks set forth fully below.

Election / Restriction:

The Office Action mailed January 5, 1998, indicates that claims 28-31 were elected by Applicant. Rather, claims 28-31 were withdrawn and claims 1-27 and 32-40 were elected.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Frick et al.

The Applicant overcomes the rejection. By so doing, however, the Applicant does not admit that Frick et al. qualifies as prior art relative the present application and hereby expressly reserves the right to show that Frick et al. does not qualify as prior art should it become necessary.

Claim 1, as amended, recites "a directing circuit coupled between the interface port and the signal processing circuit for electrically coupling the output contacts to the signal inputs wherein the output contacts are selected from the plurality of electrical contacts according to a sensed signal received from the telephone base." As explained in the Applicant's specification on page 13, lines 19-27, when a telephone accessory including the interface system of the present invention is first plugged into a telephone base unit, the telephone accessory may not operate because it has not yet been optimally configured to electronically communicate with the telephone base unit. A central office dial tone signal is provided to two of the lines of the jack 202 (at the telephone base unit). Pairs of contacts of the jack 202 are sequentially selected until a central office dial tone signal is sensed in the receive channel of the interface system.

Frick et al. do not disclose such a feature. This is apparent from Fig. 1(b) of Frick et al. where it can be seen that switches S1 and S2 switch the device of Frick et al. between voice and data modes of communication. The switches S1 and S2, however, do not select contacts of the telephone base unit according to a sensed signal received from the telephone base, as required by claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over Frick et al. New claim 41 is dependent from claim 1 and recites that the "sensed signal" is a dial tone signal. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from new claim 41. Accordingly, claims 2-27 and new claim 41 are allowable at least because each is dependent from an allowable base claim 1.

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-27 and 41 are allowable. Allowance at an early date would be greatly appreciated. Should any outstanding issues remain, the Examiner is encourage to telephone the undersigned at (650) 833-0160 to discuss the same so that any such issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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